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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/656,070	09/05/2003	David Charles Lyons	12929.1062USC1	8343
23552	7590	11/03/2005	EXAMINER	
MERCHANT & GOULD PC P.O. BOX 2903 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-0903			COCKS, JOSIAH C	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3749	
DATE MAILED: 11/03/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Receipt of applicant's After Final amendment filed 10/4/2005 is acknowledged. By this amendment applicant has amended the claims 48 and 53 to incorporate limitations of dependent claims that the examiner previously indicated would be allowable. However, newly discovered reference, U.S. Patent No. 4,242,398 to Segawa et al., is applied in the rejection of claims 53 and 56-58. The statement of the grounds of the rejection follow. As the references noted below were not previously applied to applicant's claims, this action is made non-final.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 53, 56, and 58 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,242,398 to Segawa et al. ("Segawa").

Segawa discloses in the specification and figures 1 and 2 the invention as described in applicant's claims 53, 56, and 58. In particular, Segawa shows a method for forming a panel comprising the steps of: providing a mold (see at least col. 11, lines 31-33); providing an inorganic fiber to the mold, and specifically the mold cavity (see at least col. 3, line 24); compressing the inorganic fiber within the mold (see at least col. 11, lines 55-60); forming at

Art Unit: 3749

least one cavity in a bottom surface of the panel (see panel 1 with raised cavities 2); where the at least one cavity extends at least a portion of a top surface of the panel (See Fig. 2); and heating the mold (see at least col. 11, lines 29-43).

Segawa also shows providing a binder to the mold (see col. 3, lines 50-68).

In regard to the recitation that the panel is “for use in a gas fire place burner”, this is regarded as merely a statement of intended use. It has been held that if the body of a claim fully and intrinsically sets forth all of the limitations of the claimed invention, and the preamble merely states, for example, the purpose or intended use of the invention, rather than any distinct definition of the claimed invention’s limitations, then the preamble is not considered a limitation and is of no significance to claim construction. *Pitney Bowes, Inc. v. Hewlett-Packard Co.*, 182 F.3d 1298, 1305, 51 USPQ2d 1161, 1165 (Fed. Cir. 1999); see also MPEP 2111.02. Further, in a claim drawn to a process of making, the intended use must result in a manipulative difference as compared to the prior art. See *In re Casey*, 152 USPQ 235 (CCPA 1967) and *In re Otto*, 136 USPQ 458, 459 (CCPA 1963). In this case, the panel formed in Segawa would be capable of functioning in a gas fireplace and such use does not result in a manipulative difference. Accordingly, this statement in the preamble of the claim is not given any patentable weight.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Art Unit: 3749

5. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

6. Claim 57 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Segawa as applied to claim 54 above in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,738,818 to Atmur et al. ("Atmur").

Segawa teaches the use of "ordinary molds" for forming the panel (1) with raised cavities (2) (see col. 11, lines 67-68). However, Segawa does not disclose explicitly the use of male and female dies to form the cavities.

Atmur teaches a molding process that is the same field of endeavor as both Segawa and applicant's invention. In Atmur, a fiber reinforced material undergoing compression molding has cavities formed through the use of male (14) and female dies (12) (see at least col. 6, lines 37-48).

Therefore, in regard to claim 57, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to mold the cavities of Segawa so as to be formed through the use of male and female dies as taught in Atmur as these dies are understood in the art

Art Unit: 3749

of forming fiber refractory bodies to desirably produce a cavity structure in a plate or panel (see Atmur, at least col. 6, lines 37-67).

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 33-35, 46-48, 50, and 52 are allowable.

8. Claim 55 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

9. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

In regard to claims 33-35, 46, and 47, the prior art does not teach or suggest the invention of a gas burner for a fireplace having the particular combination of structural elements as recited in these claims.

In regard to claim 48, 50 and 52 the prior art does not teach or suggest the method for forming a gas burner for a fireplace as recited in claim 48 that includes the particular steps of forming a compression molded panel with inorganic fiber, forming the particular cavity in the panel as recited, and coupling a burner member to the panel to produce the gas burner.

In regard to claim 55, the prior art does not teach or suggest the method for forming a panel as recited in independent claim 53 in conjunction with the step of forming a prefabricated log in a portion of the panel as further recited in claim 55.

Art Unit: 3749

Conclusion

10. The references relied upon in this rejection were not previously of record. Accordingly this action is made non-final. A THREE (3) MONTH shortened statutory period for reply has been set. Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Josiah Cocks whose telephone number is (571) 272-4874. The examiner can normally be reached on weekdays from 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ehud Gartenberg, can be reached at (571) 272-4828. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

Art Unit: 3749

system, see <http://portal.uspto.gov/external/portal/pair>. Any questions on access to the Private PAIR system should be directed to the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at (866) 217-9197 (toll-free).

jcc
October 28, 2005



JOSIAH COCKS
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 3749